

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the diagnosis an individual's predisposition to an immunological disorder, the method comprising:

analyzing said individual for the presence of at least one TIM-1 polymorphism;

wherein the presence of said polymorphism is indicative of an individuals predisposition to develop said immunological disorder.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises:

contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to one or more of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a fragment thereof; and

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said nucleic acid.

3. The method according to Claim 4, wherein said biological sample comprises nucleic acids specifically amplified with sequences set forth in one or more of SEQ ID NO:18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28 or a fragment thereof.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises contacting a biological sample comprising nucleic acids from said individual with a probe that specifically binds to the nucleic acid sequence ATGACAACGACTGTTCCA; and

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said probe and said nucleic acid.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said determining comprises:

contacting a biological sample comprising protein with an antibody that specifically binds to one or more of the proteins having amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NO:17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27;

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said antibody and said protein.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein said determining comprises:

contacting a biological sample comprising protein with an antibody that specifically binds to an epitope comprises the amino acid sequence MTTTVP;

detecting the presence of a complex formed between said antibody and said protein.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological sample is blood or a derivative thereof.

8. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
analyzing said individual for the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) seropositivity.

9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said immunological disorder is an atopic disorder.

10. A method for the treatment of an immunologic disorder in an individual, the method comprising:
administering to said individual an agent that binds to a TIM polypeptide.

11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said agent is an attenuated or inactivated HAV.

12. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said agent competes with HAV for binding to TIM-1.

13. The method according to Claim 10, comprising the step of pre-determining the presence in said individual of a TIM-1 allele encoding the amino acid sequence MTTTVP.

14. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said immunological disorder is an atopic disorder.

15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said atopic disorder is asthma.

16. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said atopic disorder is atopic dermatitis.

17. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said atopic disorder is allergic rhinitis.

18. A method of screening a compound for treatment of an immunologic disorder, the method comprising:

contacting a candidate agent with a TIM-1 polypeptide;

detecting the ability of said agent to bind to said TIM-1 polypeptide or to modulate TIM-1 activity.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said candidate agent is competes with HAV for binding to TIM-1.